



## Short Biography For Introduction

Mark Poloncarz, who was born and raised in Lackawanna, NY, is Erie County's eleventh (11th) comptroller and only the fifth (5th) elected comptroller since the office was made elective in 1961. In that capacity, he acts as Erie County's Chief Fiscal Officer, Chief Accounting and Reporting Officer, and Chief Auditing Officer.

Since taking office in 2006 during the height of the 'Red-Green' fiscal crisis, Mark has dedicated his administration towards creating a more efficient comptroller's office and restoring fiscal stability to Erie County's government. He has released more financial statements and reports than any of his predecessors, including, for the first time, the issuing of comprehensive and detailed quarterly reports on Erie County's finances.

Additionally, Mark has strengthened the office's Audit Division, which has conducted more than 50 major audits and reviews of Erie County's departments, related entities and issues facing residents, which have identified more than \$27 million in cost savings.

He has shaped the Audit Division into an *Inspector General*-style organization that stops and prevents waste, fraud and abuse of county taxpayers' dollars, and was honored by the Association of Local Government Auditors with their prestigious Bronze Knighton Award for small audit departments in 2007. This was the first Knighton Award ever received by a municipal government auditor in New York State.

Under Mark's watch, Erie County's credit rating has increased 4 steps (from Baa3) to the current rating of A2, which is the highest for the County since 2001, while the state-appointed control board has downgraded in status from "control" to "advisory."